

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 /059 W

----- 017628

R 231526Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2548

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2512

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SHUM CASC ZA

SUBJECT: DEPORTATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

REF: LUSAKA 2412, LUSAKA A-73

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GRZ ISSUED STATEMENT DEC 22 IN NAME OF MINISTER HOME AFFAIRS MILNER ANNOUNCING DEPORTATION OF THREE EXPATRIATE FAMILIES WHO WERE MEMBERS OF WATCHTOWER SOCIETY (JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES). THOSE INVOLVED ARE CANDIANS, DANES, AND BRITISH SUBJECT WITH AMERICAN WIFE AND SON (LUSAKA 2412), ALL RESIDENT IN KITWE.

2. AS REPORTED IN PRESS DEC 23, MILNER'S STATEMENT SAYS:
"EXPATRIATES IN THIS MOVEMENT HAVE PREVAILED ON ZAMBIANS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PERPETUATE PERSISTENTLY IN THEIR DIVISIVE INTERESTS OR PRACTICES IN THIS NATION. THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. THIS IS WHY I HAVE TAKEN THE DECISION TO REMOVE A NUMBER OF EXPATRIATES
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BELONGING TO THIS MOVEMENT FROM ZAMBIA...WATCHTOWER

FOLLOWERS HAVE FLAGRANTLY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY BY NOT SALUTING THE FLAG OR PARTICIPATING IN THE SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM...THIS IS A SERIOUS WARNING. NO RELIGIOUS REVISIONISM WILL BE ALLOWED TO SHOW ITS UGLY HEAD IN THIS PROGRESSIVE AND PEACEFUL COUNTRY...THIS IS A LESSON TO THOSE WATCHTOWER SECT MEMBERS WHO ARE ZAMBIANS THAT FROM NOW ON THE GOVT WILL BROOK NO NONSENSE." IN RELEASING MILNER'S STATEMENT, PERM SECY CHILAO TOLD PRESS THIS WAS ONLY BEGINNING OF EXERCISE TO GET RID OF EXPATRIATES WHO WERE BENT ON DISRUPTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN ZAMBIA.

3. PARTY-CONTROLLED TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL DEC 23 REACHES CONCLUSION THAT "IN THE ZAMBIAN WATCHTOWER RELIGION THERE IS SOMETHING EXTRA, UNRELIGIOUS AND UN-CHRISTIAN, SOMETHING SMACKING OF THE CIA HIJACKING A PORTION OF THE SECT'S ACTIVITIES TO PLANT AND NURTURE POLITICAL SUBVERSION. THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE ZAMBIAN FOLLOWERS OF THE SECT ARE FIRST CLASS CITIZENS AND HOLD HIGH POSITIONS IN THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT...IT IS CERTAINLY NOT SURPRISING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS RELUCTANTLY AND VERY LATE IN THE DAY PURGING FOREIGN INFLUENCE AT THE TOP OF THE LOCAL MOVEMENT." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH UNIP NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING DEC 8-12 IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADOPTED RESOLUTION THAT PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE FURTHER MEASURES INCLUDING BANNING OF WATCHTOWER SOCIETY IF PRESENT STEPS DID NOT IMPROVE SITUATION, NO PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT ISSUED UNTIL NOW. MILNER'S STATEMENT APPEARS INTENDED AS STRONG WARNING THAT FURTHER DEPORTATIONS OR REPRESSION MAY FOLLOW IF WATCHTOWER SECT DOES NOT BEHAVE ITSELF.
WILKOWSKI

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